

Mar 14, 2018

Education Committee
CT

Dear Members of the Education Committee, Committee,

As an advocate with Food Allergy Research & Education, I am writing to you to voice my support of HB 5452. The bill addresses important concerns regarding the safety of students, including allowing school transportation personnel to intervene in an allergic emergency, having the state update current school food allergy guidelines, and putting policies in place to keep food allergic students safely participating in culinary programs.

My daughter who is in kindergarten can not ride the bus with her friends because no one on the bus is allowed to administer an EpiPen.

She is excluded from her friends, she may only be 5 but she understands that she's not the same as the other kids. It's horrible explaining to her why she can't ride the bus with her friends.

An allergic reaction can escalate to anaphylaxis within minutes and, if left untreated, may cause death. Food allergy is the most common cause of anaphylaxis, but insect stings, medications and latex are other triggers

Epinephrine is the first-line treatment for anaphylaxis. It is safe and simple to administer.

Only 30 percent of reporting districts require bus drivers to have training in anaphylaxis and administering epinephrine.

Current State Department of Education (CSDE) guidelines for students with food allergies were written in 2006, updated in 2012, and are out of date with current medical and legal standards of care. As an example, CSDE guidelines do not acknowledge food allergies may be considered a disability under the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

For these reasons, I ask you to bring HB 5452 to a vote and vote YES.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

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